

Application No.: 10/070,776

Filed: March 12, 2002

Group Art Unit:

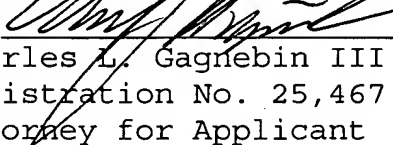
REMARKS

This Supplemental Preliminary Amendment puts the claims into proper form for examination. Note that claims 1-12, 14-25, and 27-39 have been amended; new claims 40-48 have been added; and claims 13 and 26 remain unchanged. Kindly calculate the filing fee based on the amended claims.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter which would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure

Red-lined Claims for the Examiner's convenience

1. Rail section for stretched fabric false partitions, said section ~~(3)~~ comprising at least one groove ~~(10)~~ defined by two lateral walls ~~(5,7)~~ and a base wall ~~(6)~~, said groove ~~(10)~~ being designed to contain at least one edge of the stretched fabric ~~(1)~~ after it has been mounted in the section ~~(3)~~, characterised in that being of a single piece, said rail section ~~(3)~~ comprises a joint ~~(12)~~ for keeping the edge of the stretched fabric ~~(1)~~ in said groove ~~(10)~~, said joint ~~(12)~~ being made of a material having a flexibility differing from that of the material constituting the walls ~~(5,6,7)~~ of said groove ~~(10)~~.

2. Rail section according to claim 1, characterised in that the cross-section of said groove ~~(10)~~ is in general shaped like a V or U, the extreme portions of the lateral walls ~~(5,7)~~ of the groove ~~(10)~~ opposite the base wall ~~(6)~~ of the groove ~~(10)~~ defining an opening at least partially sealed off by the joint ~~(12)~~ for retaining the edge of the stretched fabric ~~(1)~~.

3. Rail section according to claim 2, characterised in that the joint ~~(12)~~ comprises a single lip ~~(13)~~ protruding from one of the lateral walls ~~(5,7)~~ of said groove ~~(10)~~, known as a joint support wall, said lip ~~(13)~~ comprising an internal face ~~(16)~~ opposite the base wall ~~(6)~~ of the groove ~~(10)~~ and an opposing external face.

4. Rail section according to claim 3, characterised in that the lip joint ~~(12)~~ is an approximately flat joint, the internal face ~~(16)~~ of the lip ~~(13)~~ being approximately parallel to its external face.

5. Rail section according to claim 4, characterised in that the single lip ~~(13)~~ of the joint ~~(12)~~ extends approximately perpendicularly to its support wall ~~(5,7)~~.

6. Rail section according to claim 4 ~~or~~ 5, characterised in that the free edge of the lip ~~(13)~~ is placed inside the groove ~~(10)~~.

7. Rail section according to ~~one of claims 4 to 6~~, characterised in that the free edge of the lip ~~(13)~~ is approximately in support against the lateral wall of the groove ~~(10)~~ placed opposite the joint support wall.

8. Rail section according to claim 3 ~~or 4~~, characterised in that the sole lip ~~(13)~~ of the joint ~~(12)~~ extends along an angle of less than 65° with respect to its support wall.

9. Rail section according to claim 8, characterised in that the free edge of the lip is placed inside the groove ~~(10)~~.

10. Rail section according to claim 9, characterised in that the free edge of the lip is approximately ~~is in~~ support against the lateral wall of the groove ~~(10)~~ placed opposite the joint support wall.

11. Rail section according to ~~one of claims 3 to 10~~, characterised in that the single lip projects from the extreme portion of its support wall.

12. Rail section according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~, characterised in that the lip of the joint comprises an internal face orientated towards the base wall ~~(6)~~ of the groove ~~(10)~~ and an external opposing face, the internal face and the external face of the joint ~~(12)~~ not being parallel to each another.

14. Rail section according to claim ~~12 or 13~~, characterised in that the free edge of the lip is placed inside the groove ~~(10)~~.

15. Rail section according to ~~one of claims 12 to 14~~, characterised in that the free edge of the lip is approximately in support against the lateral wall of the groove placed opposite the support wall of the joint.

16. Rail section according to claim ~~12 or 13~~, characterised in that the internal face ~~(16)~~ of the single lip ~~(13)~~ of the joint ~~(12)~~ extends along an angle less than 65° with respect to its support wall ~~(5,7)~~.

17. Rail section according to claim 16, characterised in that the free edge of the lip is placed inside the groove ~~(10)~~.

18. Rail section according to claim 17, characterised in that the free edge of lip (13)—is approximately in support against the lateral wall of the groove placed opposite the joint support wall.

19. Rail section according to ~~one of claims 12 to 18~~, characterised in that the single lip (13)—projects from the extreme portion of its support wall—(5, 7).

20. Rail section according to ~~one of claims 12 to 19~~, characterised in that the external face of the sole lip (13)—of the joint (12)—extends approximately perpendicular to the lateral walls—(5, 7), of the groove—(10).

21. Rail section according to claim ~~1-or-2~~, characterised in that the joint comprises two lips ~~(13, 21)~~, projecting from one of the lateral walls ~~(5, 7)~~ of said groove ~~(10)~~, said joint support wall, namely a first lip ~~(13)~~ known as a support lip, and a second lip ~~(21)~~ known as a masking lip, the internal face ~~(16)~~ of the first lip ~~(13)~~ orientated towards the base wall ~~(6)~~ of the groove ~~(10)~~ being slanted with respect to the joint support wall, the external face ~~(22)~~ of the second lip ~~(21)~~ opposite the base wall ~~(6)~~ of the groove ~~(10)~~ being approximately perpendicular to the joint support wall.

22. Rail section according to claim 21, characterised in that the free edge of the first lip ~~(13)~~ is in support against the lateral wall of the groove placed opposite the joint support wall.

23. Rail section according to claim ~~21-or-22~~, characterised in that the internal face ~~(16)~~ of the first lip ~~(13)~~ is slanted by an angle of less than 65° with respect to the joint support wall.

24. Rail section according to ~~one of claims 21 to 23~~, characterised in that the two lips ~~(13, 21)~~ project from the extreme portion of the joint support wall.

25. Rail section according to claim ~~1 or 2~~, characterised in that the joint comprises two lips, each lip projecting from one of the lateral walls of said groove and comprising an internal face opposite the base wall of the groove and an external opposing face.

27. Rail section according to claim ~~25 or 26~~, characterised in that the internal face of at least one of the two lips is slanted by an angle of less than 65° with respect to the lateral support wall of said lip.

28. Rail section according to ~~one of claims 25 to 27~~, characterised in that the external face of at least one of the two lips extends approximately perpendicular to the support wall of said lip.

29. Rail section according to ~~one of claims 2 to 28~~, characterised in that the lateral walls ~~(5,7)~~ of the groove ~~(10)~~ are made of an approximately rigid material selected from the group comprising metal alloys and rigid polymers, the joint ~~(12)~~ being made of a substantially flexible material, such as a flexible polymer.

30. Rail section according to ~~one of claims 1 to 29~~, characterised in that it is obtained by co-extrusion or duplicate moulding of different materials, namely a first material constituting the substantially rigid walls ~~(5,6,7)~~ of the groove ~~(10)~~, and a second material constituting the joint ~~(12)~~.

31. Rail section according to claim 30, characterised in that the walls ~~(5,6,7)~~ of the groove ~~(10)~~ are made of a rigid PVC-based material, possibly recycled, the joint ~~(12)~~ being made of a flexible PVC.

32. Rail section according to ~~one of claims 1 to 31~~, characterised in that it comprises an external wing ~~(5)~~ from which protrudes perpendicularly is a core ~~(6)~~ bearing projecting an internal wing ~~(7)~~, said internal wing ~~(7)~~ being approximately parallel to the lower portion ~~(9)~~ of the external wing ~~(5)~~, the internal wing ~~(7)~~ and the lower section ~~(9)~~ of the external wing ~~(5)~~ forming the lateral walls of said groove, the core ~~(6)~~ of the rail section constituting the base wall of said groove, the upper portion of the external wing comprising a C-shaped groove ~~(20)~~ able to receive means for assembling the two portions of the butt rail sections.

33. False wall comprising a stretched fabric fixed along its edges to a support fixed onto the walls of a room, said support comprising a rail formed of portions of sections as shown in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ 1, characterised in that the edge of said fabric ~~(1)~~ is provided with an excess thickness ~~(11)~~ taking support against the internal face of the joint.

34. False wall as shown in claim 33 and used as a false ceiling, the groove ~~(10)~~ for the rail section being oriented downwards, the lateral walls ~~(5,7)~~ of the groove ~~(10)~~ being approximately vertical, a first lateral wall of the groove ~~(10)~~ being mounted close to a wall ~~(4)~~ and the second lateral wall of the groove being situated towards the inside of the room, the joint ~~(12)~~ extending projecting from the lower extreme portion of the first lateral wall, the excess thickness ~~(11)~~ of the edge of the fabric ~~(1)~~ being forcefully introduced upwards between the free edge of the joint and the second lateral wall of the groove ~~(10)~~ so that said excess thickness ~~(11)~~ takes support both against the internal face of the joint and the internal face of the second lateral wall of the groove, the fabric stretched horizontally being thus deviated upwards so as to penetrate into the groove of the rail section whilst taking support on the lower extreme edge of the second lateral wall of the groove.

35. False wall according to claim 34, characterised in that the two lateral walls ~~(5,7)~~ of the groove ~~(10)~~ have approximately identical heights, the external face of the joint being placed approximately perpendicular to said lateral walls, and thus in the continuity of the stretched fabric ~~(1)~~.

36. False wall according to claim 34, characterised in that the two lateral walls ~~(5,7,)~~ of the groove ~~(10)~~ have different heights, the first lateral wall of the groove close to the wall ~~(4)~~ being of smaller height than the second lateral wall, the external face of the joint being slanted by an angle so as to form a continuity solution between the extension plane of the stretched fabric and the lower extremity of the first lateral wall.

37. False wall according to ~~one of claims 34 to 36~~, characterised in that the external face of the joint is made of a material exhibiting a colour, tint or brightness identical to or coordinated with those of the stretched fabric, the rest of the rail section being of standard colour, tint and brightness.

38. False wall according to ~~one of claims 34 to 37~~, characterised in that the lower extremity ~~(8)~~ of the second lateral wall of the groove ~~(10)~~ under which the stretched fabric takes support is rounded.

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39. False wall according to ~~one of claims 34 to 37,~~ characterised in that it comprises two coplanar horizontally stretched fabrics, the edges of said two stretched fabrics being retained inside a groove of a rail section fixed under the ceiling of a room, said rail section comprising an upper horizontal core prolonged downwards by a vertical central wing and two other lower horizontal wings situated on both sides of the vertical central wing, the horizontal wings constituting the lateral walls of two opposing grooves and a joint support for retaining the excess thicknesses of the edges of the two stretched fabrics.